

Note that this book can be bought print on demand from Amazon. This is a free online copy.

A Gazetteer of British Mermaid
Place-names: England, Wales,
Scotland and the Isle of Man

With an Appendix on the Mermaid Place-
names of the West Indies

S. R. Young



Copyright © 2021, Simon Richard Young. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

No. 7: Pwca Ghost, Witch and Fairy Pamphlets

Contents

Introduction:	1
Part 1: Coastal British Mermaid Placenames	
	7
Part 2: Inland British Mermaid Placenames	
	43
Part 3: Mermaid Field Names in England and Wales	
	57
Part 4: Excluded Placenames	
	65
Appendix: West Indian Mermaid Placenames	
	71
Bibliography	
	83



Introduction

The present gazetteer offers a handlist of British (English, Manx, Scottish and Welsh) mermaid placenames. I ignored, for the purposes of this exercise, the vast number of mermaid buildings and streets: names that typically come from inns or taverns named ‘the Mermaid’. I concentrated, instead, on British rocks, pools, fields, lakes, hills, trees and caves with mermaid names.

My aim in bringing together these fifty-nine names – which date from the sixteenth- to the twenty-first century – was to improve knowledge of British mermaid folklore. What could be learnt from these points in the landscape and associated legends? Where were and where are mermaids supposed to appear?

Most sites were coastal: these are collected together in part one of the present pamphlet. For me the single biggest surprise was the number of inland mermaid sites, particularly in East Anglia and parts of northern England and the Scottish Lowlands. These freshwater mermaid sites are gathered together in part two. There were also a number of ‘field names’ (part three).

The counties given are the pre-1974 British versions: not least because most of the sources were written many decades before that date. The abbreviation ‘OS’ (followed by the first letters of the relevant county and publication dates) refers to one of the nineteenth- or early twentieth-century Ordnance Survey maps with the year of publication (not survey) in brackets. Where possible I have included screenshots of mermaid sites from the Victorian and Edwardian OS series.

This gazetteer was part of a push on the part of a number of scholars to examine mermaid placenames around the world. Six articles are to be included in the online journal *Shima* 15

(October 2021) on mermaid placenames. These articles relate to: Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and the West Indies.

I am responsible for the *Shima* articles on Britain and the West Indies. I have included the fourteen West Indies mermaid names as an appendix in the present work because of the clear link of some of them with British mermaid traditions. However, the interested reader should turn to the *Shima* article on ‘West Indian Mermaid Toponyms’ for fuller details.

My article on British mermaids is entitled ‘Mermaids, Mere-Maids and No Maids: Mermaid Placenames and Mermaid Folklore in Britain’. It will appear in the same volume (freely available online). In it I explore, among other things, the difference between freshwater and saltwater mermaid traditions.

I am extraordinarily grateful to a number of friends and colleagues for help in producing this gazetteer and the associated folklore project. I would like to thank first Philip Hayward who has been the inspiration behind much of my work on mermaids.

I was lucky enough to benefit for British mermaids from the help and knowledge of: Rebekah Brett-Pitt, John Buckingham, Edie Denmark, Davide Ermacora, William Franklin, Ellen Henderson, Debbi Jones, Sophia Kingshill, John Litton, Stephen Miller, Claire Oram, Sarah Peverley, Carolyn Redmayne, Linda Roper, Lynda Taylor and Chris Woodyard.

For the West Indies I was assisted by Clarice Barnes, Gerard Besson, Jennifer Campbell, Graceyln Cassell, Jonathan Cassidy, Robert Ditter, Robert Erdman, Paul David Mather,

Ca Newry, Sonja Osborne, Karen Pascal, Shirley Spycalla, Margaret Sweeney, Keith Tacklyn and Matt Wade. Najla Kay drew the maps included.

It goes without saying that I would be very interested in including, in later editions, other mermaid placenames from Britain or the West Indies. I can be contacted at [simonyoungfl AT gmail DOT com](mailto:simonyoungfl@gmail.com)

I) Coastal British Mermaid Placenames

Mermaid (Aberdeenshire, Scotland):

Location: Pittulie, 57° 41' 59.9" N – 2° 04' 05.0" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: A coastal rock stack, OSAbe 2 (1874).



Mermaid Beach (Kent, England):

Location: Folkestone, 51° 04' 27.1" N – 1° 10' 15.9" E

Earliest Reference: 2010s?

Type: Coastal

Notes: The first reference I found to this clearly modern name is '10 of the best walks' (2015).

Mermaid Cove (Anglesey, Wales)

Location: Ynys Llanddwyn, 53° 08' 22.1" N 4° 24' 45.8" W (approx.)

Earliest Reference: 21C

Type: Coastal

Notes: The earliest reference I found is an online photograph from 2007.¹ 'Cove' here sounds a modern name in a Welsh-speaking area.

Mermaid Hill (Forfarshire, Scotland):

Location: Montrose, 56° 42' 17.4" N – 2° 27' 12.4" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 17C?

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'On the 18th April, 1694, the Town Council met to consider the reparation of the shore. There were no clocks or wharves in existence then, the only pier being the one stretching out into the river at the foot of the Pier Wynd. After full consideration the Council drew up a number of rules and instructions for the Shore Master and, along with the rules about the berthing of ships and barks, there was a mention of three hills at the Waterside. These were the Windmill Hill, the Shore Hill or Horologe Hill, and the Mermaid Hill, the hill in the centre. This was the largest and most prominent of the three. They could all be seen by ships entering the river, for there were no houses on the common which stretched in its green sward from the base of the hills to the bents at the sea. An odd granary or malt

¹ www.geograph.org.uk/photo/491156 [accessed 6 Jun 2021].

kiln was the only building which here and there obscured the view from the Mermaid Hill to the sea and, with a seat on the top, it formed a trysting place for many of the sons of Neptune who formed the bulk of the residents at the ‘fish boats’ end of the burgh. No doubt the mermaidens of Montrose also gathered there when ‘Jack Ashore’ was home on leave. The Mermaid Hill is now gone and its site occupied by the busy hive of Messrs Chives, Ltd. The reference to the Mermaid Hill in the Connell minute of 18th April, 1694 was to the effect that ‘all ships or barks who still make use of ballast shall employ the ballast boat either for outputting or inputting the same and the ballast they putt forth to be layd down at the Mermaid Hill and the ballast they take in to be brought from the sand ness or above the port, under a penalty of £6 for each tyde’ (Low 1939). The name was picked up by Benwell and Waugh (1961, 216). Note that mermaids appear on the crest of Montrose as ‘supporters’.

Mermaid Pool, (Cornwall, England):

Location: Pendeen, 50° 10’ 01.5” N – 5° 40’ 14.4” W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: This is apparently a modern name. ‘Two nude swimmers go to what ‘they know as ‘The Mermaid Pool’ at Boat Cove’ (‘Mine’s...’ 2019). One swimmer ‘goes on to tell me that she once met an elderly man on a computer course, who told her he created the pool at Boat Cove with dynamite back in the sixties. She tells me that she is sure he is still alive, and that he often goes to Lil’s Chippy in Pendeen for his breakfast’ (‘Skinny-Dipping’ 2020).

Mermaid Pool (Devon, England):

Location: Burgh Island, 50° 16' 45.4" N – 3° 53' 56.9" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: The Mermaid Pool is described in several places on the internet as part of the Burgh Island Hotel. How old is the name? I can only give a very unsatisfactory reference here. The relevant passage appears in 'snippet view' in *Caterer and Hotelkeeper* 179, 74 on Google Books for 1988. Given GB's poor macro data this reference would need to be checked, but I have no access to the relevant magazine. Two emails to the hotel management went unanswered: they were sent in the middle of the COVID pandemic.

Mermaid Pools (Devon, England):

Location: Plymouth, 50° 18' 57.3" N – 4° 06' 48.6" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: '[I]f you are a Devonshire man, [it] makes you half think your line has gone straight through the world into the 'Mermaid pools' off the beloved old Mewstone' ('Fishing' 1871).

Mermaid Rock (Hampshire, England):

Location: Easton (Isle of Wight), 50° 40' 07.0" N – 1° 30' 18.6" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: This rock was apparently created by a 1968 or 1969 rockfall: the cliff rock was judged to have taken on the form of a mermaid (Fisher 2019, 146). In 2012 the rock was eroded further ('Take a walk' 2012). It will be interesting to see whether the name now changes.



Mermaid Rock (Easton)

Mermaid Stone, The (Caernarvonshire, Wales):

Location: Conway, 53° 16' 52.5" N – 3° 49' 35.3" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'Once upon a time on a moonlit night, a mermaid emerged from a shimmering river and sat on a stone on Conway quay. The stone on which the mermaid sat is identified to-day by two crossed lines, and it is to be found

opposite a certain public-house where fishermen foregather. Now, lest I libel an innocent maiden, it is only right to say that the public-house was not there when the mermaid was. Legend has it that if you stand on this stone on which the mermaid sat, you are, sooner or later, bound to return to Conway. Over the years, some millions of holidaymakers have joyfully stamped on this stone, and there is no doubt but that at one time or another, the large majority of them have revisited Conway. Soon now, this stone will be dislodged to make room for a new trunk road along the ancient quayside. But stone or no stone, the charm of old Conway is enduring' ('The Mermaid Stone' 1944). For the possible background to this stone (Kingshill and Westwood 2012, 229-231).

Mermaid Tables (Yorkshire, England)

Location: Ravenscar, 54° 24' 32.9" N 0° 29' 41.6" W (approx.)

Earliest Reference: 21C

Type: Coastal

Notes: The 'tables' are some unusually shaped flat circular rocks on Ravenscar Beach: 'residual sheets of tough 'dogger' that overlie the Liassic rocks' (Fortey 2010, 170). This name, recalling other supernatural toponyms, e.g. Fairy Tables, may date back to the 19C. But the earliest reference I have is a photograph taken in 2004.² Inquiries in the area were fruitless.

² www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1474088 [accessed 6 Jun 2021].

Mermaid Wall (Glamorgan, Wales)

Location: Pitton, 51° 34' 06.7" N 4° 17' 52.3" W

Earliest Reference: 21C

Type: Coastal

Notes: A cliff frequented by climbers. Presumably a modern name

Mermaid's Baa (Shetland, Scotland)

Location: The island of Fetlar, 60° 38' 00.2" N 0° 52' 01.0" W (approx.)

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: This refers to a great rock or a 'ball' that was thrown by a giant at a mermaid (Saxby 1932, 47-9).

Mermaids Bath (Cornwall, England):

Location: Uncertain but between Newquay and Portreath.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'He may take his choice of a dip at Fisherman's Cove, at Mermaids Bath, at Greenbank, Spratring Cove, or Porthscadgwick' ('A correspondent writes...' 1896). This is somewhere on the coastline 'from Newquay to Portreath' (Ibid).

Mermaid's Cave (Ayrshire, Scotland):

Location: Ailsa Craig, 55° 14' 54.9" N – 5° 07' 24.3" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: One source claims that the Mermaid's Cave is McNall's Cave (south-west shore) ('Ailsa' 1885); another source claims the Mermaid's Cave is the Water Cave, next to McNall's Cave ('The Sentinel', 1904)! Toponyms are, note, mainly in English on the Craig rather than in Gaelic.

Mermaid's Cave (Cornwall, England):

Location: Treen, 50° 03' 03.1" N – 5° 37' 07.7" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: Lach-Szyrma (1894, 64) gives, in his West of Cornwall guidebook the simple tag: 'Porthguarnon. Splendid marine scenery. Mermaid's cave.'

Mermaid's Cave (Cornwall, England):

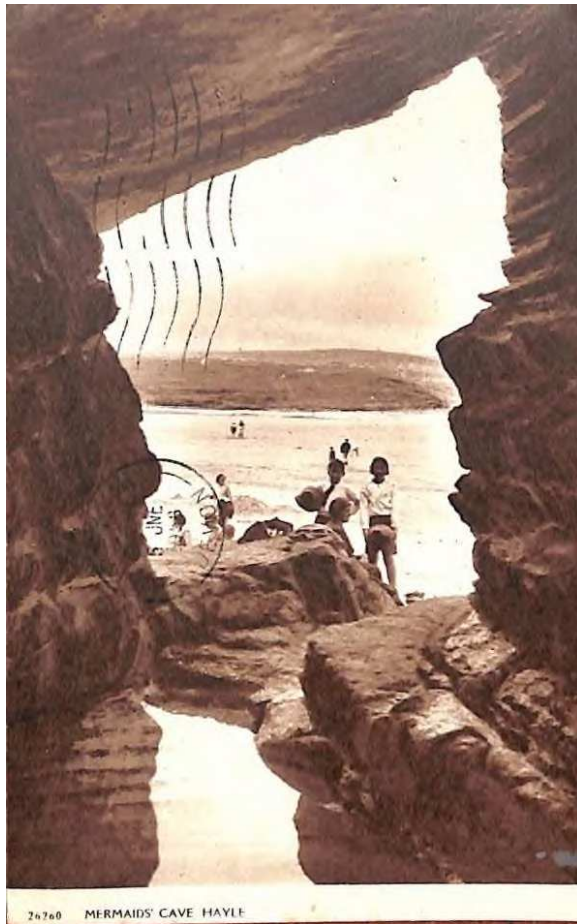
Location: Hayle, 50° 11' 50.0" N – 5° 25' 48.7" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: I have in my possession a mid-twentieth century postcard of Mermaid's Cave at Hayle (pictured). I was uncertain about whether this was a real local name so I asked a question about the name in a Hayle Facebook

group, 6-7 Jan 2021. These are some of the highlights of the discussion. Ben: 'This is just round to the right from Cove Cafe. It changes with sand levels. But that's where it is.' Graham: 'I have never heard the cave given a name, and am not aware of any Hayle-related mermaid connections. I am 65 and was born and raised in Hayle'. David: 'We always called the cave Mermaid's Cave since we were children growing up on the Towans'. Melanie: 'We called it that too. It's just round the corner from Cove Cafe on the Towans beach in Hayle'. Michael: 'I've heard it called both Mermaids and Smugglers. My great grandparents lived above Cove Café not far from there and mostly referred to it as Mermaid's Cave. Unfortunately, I don't have any particular stories apart from hearing the odd tale as a small child that mermaids would shelter in the cave during rough seas etc.' John: 'I think mermaids use it as a toilet judging by the smell during summer'. David: 'I was in there today purely by coincidence. Sometimes a sandy cave sometimes watery sand levels rising at the cove lately it alternates between a sandy and rocky cove'. Jane: 'My Dad called it Mermaid's Cave. Just past Cove Cafe towards Georgian End.' Niki: 'Mermaids Cave is just a name, but I'd like to think they were there once. But I think it was more of a make out cave.' Phil: 'My dear old father-in-law..., told me that there was a smugglers tunnel going from near Cove Cafe exiting at undercliff in the middle of the memorial walk but it was bricked up. True or not? Urban legend? Who knows?' Biddy: 'Known as mermaids cave when I was a child, long time ago.' Ian: 'it's under black cliffs. It apparently goes all the way through to the old youth hostel'. Graham: 'Remember walking as far in to the cave as we could as kids. Also did the same from the youth hostel but couldn't get all the way through.'



Mermaid's Cave (Cornwall or Devon?, England):

Location: 'the West of England'.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: At some point in the late 1870s or 1880 – 1877? – Dinah Maria Mulock Craik wrote an article in the *Sunday Magazine* about an invalid fifteen-year-old author who lived in a town somewhere in 'the West of England' (Craik 1882, 163 and 166). While on a visit to this town Craik described

a trip to the local beaches: ‘Thither, in another hour, we were all going ‘Beyond the blue hill’s utmost rim’, to a tiny bay, a paradise for children, where the miles and miles of bare green down and lofty cliffs dip into a hollow, in which the beating of the tide has made two arches of sea-worn rock, called the Mermaid’s Cave’ (Craik 1882, 156). Could this have been Padstow? In some respects, the description of Craik’s invalid friend resembles Nellie Sloggett, a Padstow author (Enys Tregarthen; see further Young 2017). We also know that there were Mermaids’ Caves at Padstow (see below). But there are differences in dates, family details and the nature of the illness between Sloggett and the unnamed invalid. Unless we suppose that Craik had gone to very great efforts to disguise the identity of the invalid author, then this cannot be Nellie.

Mermaid’s Cave (Devon, England):

Location: Croyde, 51° 08’ 34.4” N – 4° 15’ 40.1” W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: ‘A Resident of Croyde recounts the discovery at Baggy Point during the Bank Holiday weekend of a cave that would seem to have had some bearing on the many stories of smuggling in this district. It is certainly an unusual cave, for the roof has been carefully stoned and mortared and is quite dry. Accessibility was gained by cutting narrow steps over the cliff face, leading to the opening in the cliff side. A tiny natural cove with a ledge of rocks is entirely hidden from the sea, but it would be navigable at high tide. It was once a large cavern, but is now

piled with high stones. A former owner of the land disclaimed any knowledge of use of the cave in modern times but says it was known as 'The Mermaid's Cave'. The discovery leads to further conjecture on the stories still current in the area regarding Baggy Hole, where it is said a dog entered and came out at Georgeham, some two miles away. Belief has always been strong in Croyde that a passage connects Baggy Hole with Georgeham' ('A resident...' 1947). This report was then contested in the same newspaper: '*A propos* a note that appeared in this column a few weeks ago, Miss Amy B. Pitts Tucker, writing from Budleigh Salterton, elucidates the conjectures concerning the existence of a smugglers' cave at Croyde. She writes: 'Baggy Estate belonged to Mr. W. V. Richards, of Incledon House, Georgeham. He was known by the name of 'Dandy Dick' to his friends. By his orders the narrow steps leading to the cave were cut in the rock by a man named Peter Hopkins so as to make it easier for my mother and nurses to get down to the cave, where the children liked to play. The cliff roof had fallen in, so he had it built over to protect them from rain when having picnics there. It was always known by the name of 'Dinner Cave'. Mermaid's Cave is the one further along the cliff towards the point, and it is in connection with this that the legend of the dog's finding its way out at Georgeham arose' ('Smugglers' Cave' 1947).

Mermaid's Cave (Isle of Man):

Location: Laxey, 54° 13' 19.0" N – 4° 23' 45.9" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: Tourists had ‘better walk on to the father end of the shore to the Mermaid’s Cave, which has also been much improved since last season, as has also the adjoining bathing place, on which Mr Lewney has been busily engaged for months past’ (‘Opening of the Season’ 1891).

Mermaid’s Cave (Merionethshire, Wales):

Location: Borthygest, 52° 54’ 42.7” N – 4° 08’ 24.4” W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: ‘...on a visit to Borthygest... Mr Norton and his two sons went to bathe in the sea at the spot known as the Mermaid’s Cave’ (‘Bathing’ 1895). Mr Norton died there...

Mermaid’s Cave (Pembrokeshire, Wales):

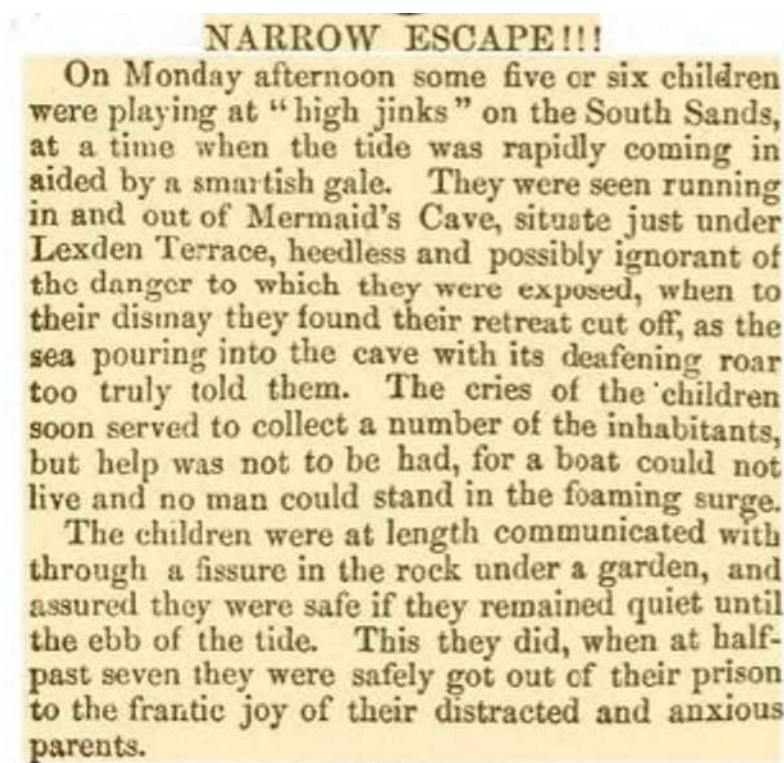
Location: Tenby, 51° 40’ 16.6” N – 4° 41’ 44.5” W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: ‘On Monday afternoon some five or six children were playing at ‘high jinks’ on the South Sands at a time when the tide was rapidly coming in aided by a smartish gale. They were seen running in and out of Mermaid’s Cave, situate just under Lexden Terrace, heedless and possibly ignorant of the danger to which they were exposed, when to their dismay their retreat cut off, as the sea pouring into the cave with its deafening roar too truly told them... The children were at length communicated with through a fissure in the rock under a

garden, and assured they were safe if they remained quiet until the ebb of the tide. This they did, when at half-past seven they were safely got out of their prison...' ('Narrow Escape!!!' 1871).



Mermaid's Cave (Sutherlandshire, Scotland):

Location: Bettyhill, 58° 31' 53.4" N – 4° 14' 22.3" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: A young woman writing about Bettyhill in 1891 included the sentence: 'many interesting caves – the Mermaid's Cave, the Angel's Cave and the Eagles' are not far from my home' ('A Remote' 1891). One elderly local,

on the Bettyhill FB group wrote: ‘Born & brought up in Bettyhill & a working Crofter in Bettyhill’, ‘Never heard of it but as the article is from the 1800s... The girl lived in the Free Church Manse in Bettyhill & said that the cave was not far away – so she is referring to something in the Bettyhill area’. This suggests that the name has not been used since the Second World War.³

³In the Friends of Eilean Nan Ròn Facebook group one member, Ellen Henderson, offered a story connected to her mother Isabella Mackay (1924-2017) or ‘Bella’ as she was known in Bettyhill: ‘I must share a wee story with you. Our beloved mother belonged to Bettyhill, and as children she told us this story many times... She was a little girl and was sent on an errand which took her across Farr beach in Bettyhill. It was a beautiful day the sun was shining, and then she saw her, yes, a mermaid sitting on a rock combing the longest most beautiful hair she had ever seen. It was golden (mum’s words) and she had a shell as a comb. Then she looked at mum and splashed into the water and was gone. Mum told everyone about the woman with a big tail and golden hair, she had never heard or seen a photo of a mermaid. Our mum was born in 1924 and she was about eight or nine on the day she crossed that beach. She told everyone what she had seen, and word spread that little Bella saw a woman with a tail. Most people dismissed it, but not one old couple that lived next door. They were a very holy couple and their only son became a minister. She told my Granny if Bella saw what she saw we have to believe her, but we will find out very soon. For tonight a terrible storm will come and it did! In the morning the storm damage was everywhere, but it was to the beach where my Granny went with Dandy the horse and the cart. Mum told us the beach was covered with wood from the deck cargo of passing ships. People came with carts and barrows and took what they could. It was perfect wood and I believe the village hall in Bettyhill was built with it. And the roof of granny’s byre and sheds and gates went up. The people took what they could before the customs claimed what was left. Our darling mother passed away three years ago, but she told that story so many times and I believe she saw a mermaid on that day (mid Jan 2021)’. I expressed my appreciation of this remarkable tale and Ellen responded: ‘I hope like me you believe this story. It has been with me all my life and our mum told it so many times. She was an amazing, gentle wonderful person, but wasn’t into airy-fairy fantasy stories. That’s what made her story even more believable. I have been on Bettyhill beach many times, but never heard of the mermaid cave with its beautiful shells. So I was so emotional when I read your newspaper article [i.e. ‘A Remote’ 1891]. Mum told us about the mermaid and her golden hair and she was combing it with, yes, a beautiful shell (mid Jan 2021).’ Ellen’s niece Rebekah Brett-Pitt, hadn’t seen her aunt’s comments. But she also wrote on the Friends Facebook page: ‘My Granny, Isabella Mackay (known as Bella) often told us all about the time she saw a mermaid combing her hair on the beach in Bettyhill. Granny told the story at the time to a local man in Bettyhill and he said, well if you saw a mermaid there will be a storm. A big storm sure did hit, wood and plenty debris was scattered all over

Mermaids' Cavern (Cornwall, England):

Location: Porth, 50° 25' 34.7" N – 5° 03' 42.2" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'Those who care to do so can creep in the Mermaid's Cavern, with which [the Blow-hole] is connected' (Ward 1888, 103). There is also a later reference: 'the Mermaids' Cave, and the Blowing Hole, the Pipers Hall, and the Banqueting Hall lead to wonderment...' ('In Praise' 1892)

Mermaids' Caves (Cornwall, England)

Location: Padstow, 50° 32' 23.3" N – 4° 56' 10.1" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'The 'summer treat' took place at the Mermaids' Caves at Padstow' ('Mr Taylor...' 1908). Local historian John Buckingham (whose knowledge of the area is second to none) tells me that he has never heard of the name.

the beach (mid Jan 2021)'. Rebekah told me in a subsequent message. 'Granny also spoke of how the mermaid took a comb from her purse and was combing her hair. Her purse was seaweed, the round seaweed nodules. On the beaches Granny would often say look there is a mermaid's purse. No one believed Granny except for the one man, who said well if you did [see a mermaid] there will be a big storm (mid Jan 2021). Caithness and Sutherland had rich mermaid lore in the 1800s and the early 1900s, perhaps the richest in Britain at that date (e.g. Young 2018). I am very happy to add an account from the end of that tradition and I thank Ellen and Rebekah for passing on Bella's experience on the beach at Farr, sometime in the early 1930s. This story is to be published in *FLS News*.

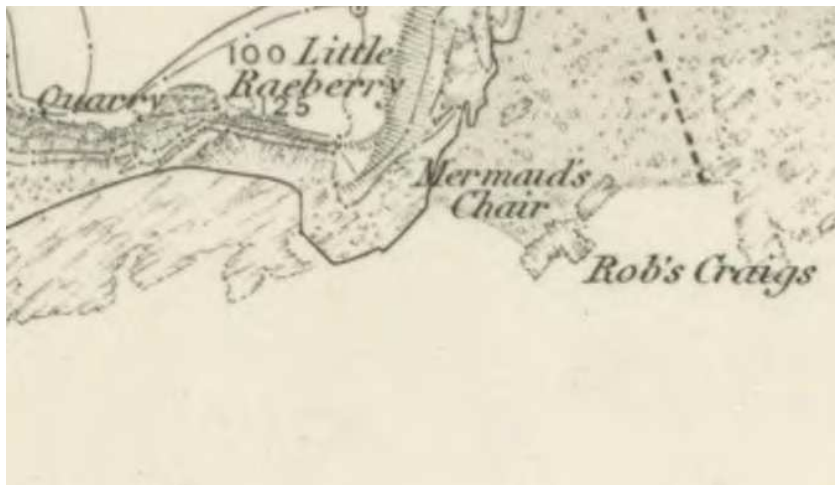
Mermaid's Chair (Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland):

Location: Kirkcudbright, 50° 10' 43.5" N 4° 58' 17.0" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: OSKir 54 (1854), a coastal rock.



Mermaid's Chair, The (Orkney, Scotland):

Location: Stronsay, 59° 07' 20.6" N – 2° 36' 18.4" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: The Chair is to be found in the middle of Mill Bay on Stronsay; and it is given as a place to be visited by tourists in Harfager (1866). It also appears on OS Ork92 (1882). 'A curious recess in the face of the rock is known, in local tradition, by the name of the Mermaid's Chair, and

it is averred that boatmen out on the bay have noticed the silvery sheen of the mermaid at night, sitting in her cold chair of rock and have heard the wild melody of her sea-songs, charming the waves to sleep' (Gorrie 1868, 308). For more on Orkney mermaid beliefs see Dennison (1995, 38-47).



Mermaid's Cradle (Fifeshire, Scotland):

Location: Crail, 56° 15' 38.1" N – 2° 37' 15.6" W

Earliest Reference: 19C.

Type: Coastal.

Notes: 'Mermaids Cradle' OSFif 20 (1855). We read of the 'Mermaid's Cradle, an impure limestone or calcareous shale' in *The Geology* (1902, 111).



Mermaid's Grotto (Isle of Man):

Location: Spanish Head, 54° 03' 36.5" N – 4° 46' 59.7" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'Of the other class of stories current along this coast of those relating to unearthly beings and appearances, one is interesting, as it has left its mark upon this locality in the name given to the mysterious passage under the huge headland through which we have just passed, 'The Mermaid's Grotto'. As told this legend is too long to be related here, but its outline is this: A mermaid, who haunted this grotto, won the love of a young fisherman belonging to the neighbouring village, and for a time they lived together in the greatest affection. But, as invariably happens in such unnatural unions, nothing but evil ultimately came from it. Listening to the representations and superstitious fears of his kinsfolk and neighbours, he began to treat her with coldness, and she, unable to bear his cruelty left him, and returned to her home beneath the sea. Repenting his folly when too late, her husband, in

despair, flung himself from the top of the headland into the sea, and perished; or, as another version of the story has it, searching for his lost wife, he one day saw her sitting on her favourite rock, near the mouth of the grotto, and heard her lamenting her lost happiness. Hurrying recklessly down the rugged precipice, to throw himself at her feet, and ask forgiveness, a loose overhanging block, upon which he leaped, gave way under him, and he fell headlong upon the rocks below. It is added that the sorrowing wife took his bleeding body in her arms and plunged with it into her native waters. Whether her art or that of her people enabled her to restore life to his broken body, or whether her sole comfort consisted in giving it sepulture in her own native element, the story does not say, but occasionally, even to this day, the sound of her mournful voice may be heard mingling with the gurgling of the waters in the depths of the grotto as she weeps and laments for her lost love' ('A Manx Sketch' 1878).

Mermaid's Hole (Cornwall, England):

Location: Gerrans, 50° 11' 39.0" N – 4° 57' 56.0' W approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'Another subterranean passage is also mentioned by Leland, so far coinciding with the former, that they both had issue from the castle to the sea, and both were about a quarter of a mile from Trewithian. This latter still remains, from the rocky nature of the ground through which it was cut, while the former, which was discovered by accident, is no longer remembered or known. The aperture of this remaining vault or passage opens through the side of a hill cliff in what is called Mermaid's Hole; and from its singular appearance, and the report of its antiquity, it greatly

engages the speculations of the whole neighbourhood. The mouth of it is large enough to admit a man walking erect. It has often been entered for forty or fifty yards up into the land; at that distance it contracts very much, obliging the person to creep. A boy some years since in that posture ventured a few yards further up; but he returned in a fright, having been terrified at the sight of two otters. Foxes have also been found in it at times; and some years ago several sheep were drowned in it by the influx of the tide. 'These, or at least the latter, were considered to be private sally ports, which furnished the inhabitants with a retreat, if reduced to the last extremity in the castle. Provided for this purpose, it would be known only to few. It would be kept perhaps as a secret by the principal officers: beginning in some sequestered room within, and terminating in some unsuspected place without. Open at its commencement within, under a blue or black stone, in some locked up chamber, to which few could have access, and ending without under some bust or thicket, which concealed it from observation; and which, if accidentally discovered, would have all the appearance of a drain' (Hitchins and Drew 1824, II, 287-288); 'On a hill near Veryan is a barrow, in which Gerennius, a mythical king of Cornwall, was said to have been buried many centuries ago, with his crown on his head, lying in his golden boat with silver oars. It was opened in 1855, when nothing but a kistvaen (a rude stone chest) containing his ashes was found. His palace of Dingerein was in the neighbouring village of Gerrans. A subterranean passage, now known as Mermaid's Hole, was one day discovered when ploughing a field, and was supposed to have led from it to the sea' (Courtney 1890, 102-103). Note that there is another mermaid place-name: '[n]ear Pen-van is the Mermaid's Chair and Cavern' (Daniell 1854, 176). Perhaps the cavern is the Mermaid's Hole at Gerrans and the Mermaid's Chair was an associated rock.

Mermaid's Hole, (Devon, England):

Location: Lundy (the southern coast), 51° 09' 38.2" N 4° 39' 37.5" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: Referenced in *Summary* (1915, 23); also at the same site or very close is a Mermaid's Pool (Hiscock 1987, 27 referring to 1984).

Mermaid's Kirk, (Forfarshire, Scotland)

Location: Arbroath 56° 33' 47.0" N – 2° 32' 47.0" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: The name appears first on OSFor 46 (1859) to the south of Seamen's Garve. 'Mermaid's Kirk, called also the Pebbly Den' (Adam and Hay 1886, 45). It was apparently associated with a Mermaid's Cave ('Presidential Address' 1891). Note also the alternative name, 'Mermaid's Church' ('The Farm' 1886).



Mermaid's Pool (Devon, England):

Location: Westward Ho!, 51° 02' 21.6" N – 4° 15' 16.8" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: OSDev 12a (1887) near the Rock Nose.



Mermaid's Rock (Cornwall, England):

Location: Kynance Cove, 49° 58' 27.8" N – 5° 13' 55.0" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: The site is 'known to the present time as the Mermaid's Rock' (Hunt 1865, 163) and is framed by Hunt in a tale⁴ Another writer notes 'old people along the coast

⁴ 'More than a hundred years since, on a fine summer day, when the sun shone brilliantly from a cloudless sky, an old man from the parish of Cury, or, as it was called in olden time, Corantyn, was walking on the sands in one of the coves near the Lizard Point. The old man was meditating, or at least he was walking onward, either thinking deeply, or not thinking at all that is, he was 'lost in thought' when suddenly he came upon a rock on which was sitting a beautiful girl with fair hair, so long that it covered her entire person. On the in-shore side of the rock was a pool of the most transparent water, which had been left by the receding tide in the sandy hollow the waters had scooped out. This young creature was so absorbed in her occupation, arranging her hair in the watery mirror, or in admiration of her own lovely face, that she was unconscious of an intruder. The old man stood looking at her for some time ere he made up his mind how to act. At length he resolved to speak to the maiden. 'What cheer, young one?' he said 'what art thee doing there by thyself, then, this time o' day?' As soon as she heard the voice, she slid off the rock entirely under the water. The old man could not tell what to make of it. He thought the girl would drown herself, so he ran on to the rock to render her assistance, conceiving that in her fright at being found naked by a man she had fallen into the pool, and possibly it was deep enough to drown her. He looked into the water, and, sure enough, he could make out the head and shoulders of a woman, and long hair floating like fine sea-weeds all over

the pond, hiding what appeared to him to be a fish's tail. He could not, however, see anything distinctly, owing to the abundance of hair floating around the figure. The old man had heard of mermaids from the fishermen of Gunwalloe; so he conceived this lady must be one, and he was at first very much frightened. He saw that the young lady was quite as much terrified as he was, and that, from shame or fear, she endeavoured to hide herself in the crevices of the rock, and bury herself under the sea-weeds. Summoning courage, at last the old man addressed her, 'Don't 'e be afraid, my dear. You needn't mind me. I wouldn't do ye any harm. I'm an old man, and wouldn't hurt ye any more than your grandfather.' After he had talked in this soothing strain for some time, the young lady took courage, and raised her head above the water. She was crying bitterly, and, as soon as she could speak, she begged the old man to go away. 'I must know, my dearie, something about ye, now I have caught ye. It is not every day that an old man catches a merrymaid, and I have heard some strange tales of you water-ladies. Now, my dear, don't 'e be afraid, I would not hurt a single hair of that beautiful head. How came ye here?' After some further coaxing she told the old man the following story: She and her husband and little ones had been busy at sea all the morning, and they were very tired with swimming in the hot sun; so the merman proposed that they should retire to a cavern, which they were in the habit of visiting in Kynance Cove. Away they all swam, and entered the cavern at mid-tide. As there was some nice soft weed, and the cave was deliciously cool, the merman was disposed to sleep, and told them not to wake him until the rise of the tide. He was soon fast asleep, snoring most lustily. The children crept out and were playing on the lovely sands; so the mermaid thought she should like to look at the world a little. She looked with delight on the children rolling to and fro in the shallow waves, and she laughed heartily at the crabs fighting in their own funny way. 'The scent from the flowers came down over the cliffs so sweetly,' said she, 'that I longed to get nearer the lovely things which yielded those rich odours, and I floated on from rock to rock until I came to this one; and finding that I could not proceed any further, I thought I would seize the opportunity of dressing my hair.' She passed her fingers through those beautiful locks, and shook out a number of small crabs, and much broken sea-weed. She went on to say that she had sat on the rock amusing herself, until the voice of a mortal terrified her, and until then she had no idea that the sea was so far out, and a long dry bar of sand between her and it. 'What shall I do? what shall I do? Oh! I'd give the world to get out to sea! Oh! Oh I what shall I do?' The old man endeavoured to console her; but his attempts were in vain. She told him her husband would 'carry on' most dreadfully if he awoke and found her absent, and he would be certain of awaking at the turn of the tide, as that was his dinnertime. He was very savage when he was hungry, and would as soon eat the children as not, if there was no other food at hand. He was also dreadfully jealous, and if she was not at his side when he awoke, he would at once suspect her of having run off with some other merman. She begged the old man to bear her out to sea. If he would but do so, she would procure him any three things he would wish for. Her entreaties at length prevailed; and, according to her desire, the old man knelt down on the rock with his back towards her. She clasped her fair arms around his neck, and locked her long finny fingers together on his throat. He got up from the rock with his burthen, and carried the mermaid thus across the sands. As she rode in this way, she asked the old man to tell her what he desired. 'I will not wish', said he, 'for silver and gold, but give me the power to do good to my neighbours: first, to break the spells of witchcraft; next, to charm away diseases; and thirdly, to discover thieves, and restore stolen goods.' All this she promised he should possess; but he must come to a half-tide rock

will still point out to you the Mermaid's Rock to prove you wrong' (Lyonesse 1922-1923, I, 47; I presume that this is a re-elaboration of Hunt). The name is not in Bottrell's version of the tale which was published after Hunt, but that was probably written before (1870, I, 61-68).



on another day, and she would instruct him how to accomplish the three things he desired. They had reached the water, and taking her comb from her hair, she gave it to the old man, telling him he had but to comb the water and call her at any time, and she would come to him. The mermaid loosened her grasp, and sliding off the old man's back into the sea, she waved him a kiss and disappeared. At the appointed time the old man was at the half-tide rock – known to the present time as the Mermaid's Rock – and duly was he instructed in many mysteries. Amongst others, he learned to break the spells of witches from man or beast; to prepare a vessel of water, in which to show to anyone who had property stolen the face of the thief; to charm shingles, tetters, St Antony's fire, and St Vitus's dance; and he learnt also all the mysteries of bramble leaves, and the like. The mermaid had a woman's curiosity, and she persuaded her old friend to take her to some secret place, from which she could see more of the dry land, and of the funny people who lived on it, 'and had their tails split, so that they could walk'. On taking the mermaid back to the sea, she wished her friend to visit her abode, and promised even to make him young if he would do so, which favour the old gentleman respectfully declined. A family, well known in Cornwall, have for some generations exercised the power of charming, &c. They account for the possession of this power in the manner related. Some remote great-grandfather was the individual who received the mermaid's comb, which they retain to the present day, and show us evidence of the truth of their being supernaturally endowed. Some people are unbelieving enough to say the comb is only a part of a shark's jaw. Sceptical people are never lovable people' (Hunt 1865, 159-163).

Gordon Frickers (with kind permission), 'Mermaid's Pool' <https://www.frickers.co.uk/art/marine-art/ports/mermaids-pool-kynance-cove/mermaids/>, 40 x 50 cm (16" x 20") (Still available on going to press)

c. 2003 the British artist Gordon Frickers painted two nudes in a coastal setting lounging on a rock in a manner reminiscent of a mermaid's pose. The image was entitled: 'Mermaid's Pool, Kynance Cove'. Gordon, pers. comm., 29 Apr 2021, kindly passed on the following information that relates to the pool. 'At Kynance Cove [in the 1970s], my family and I soon discovered by climbing through a rocky gully, exposed from half tide, the lovely miniature cove local people call 'Queen's Cove' which in turn leads through another rocky gully to the even more enchanting 'Mermaid's Pool'. The location and names we discovered from local people so all credit goes to them. I assume but never asked, that rock only exposed when the tide has dropped sufficiently, gave the cove its name when mermaids were seen on the table rock. Mermaid's Pool is very special for several reasons. This is a fine cove made entirely of green granite, the undersea floor carpeted with fine grained near white, pale green sand, as shown in my painting. A cosily small cove, it is very sheltered from any wind so ideal for sunbathing. There is no obvious direct connection to the ocean except at high tide. Even at low tide the water remains deep around the central 'table' rock. Adventurous children love to jump for thrills off the southern cliff, the ten or fifteen feet, into the crystal waters. There is another 'secret'. A swimmer ideally with a mask and snorkel can pass via a submerged tunnel, into the bay. I've done that many times. The adventure is well rewarded. As one emerges into the bay one finds oneself in a most beautiful underwater garden. A world of rocks and fine wave rippled white sand, an astonishing variety of colour rich plants, many gentle swaying. The cool, pristine salt

water is an animal playground alive with numerous small creatures and further populated with idly swimming small fish. A veritable underwater Eden. If that wouldn't attract mermaids, kindly tell me what will?

Mermaid's Rock (Cornwall, England):

Location: Lamorna, 50° 03' 42.7" N – 5° 33' 49.8" W approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'To the westward of the beautiful Cove of Lemorna is a rock which has through all time borne the above name. I have never been enabled to learn any special story in connection with this rock. There exists the popular fancy of a lady showing herself here previous to a storm – with, of course, the invariable comb and glass. She is said to have been heard singing most plaintively before a wreck, and that, all along the shore, the spirits have echoed her in low moaning voices. Young men are said to have swum off to the rock, lured by the songs which they heard, but they have never returned' (Hunt 1865, 159).

Mermaid's Rock (Forfarshire, Scotland):

Location: Inverkeilor, 56° 37' 02.7" N – 2° 29' 11.0" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'Redhead, a noted promontory... in Inverkeilor parish... Here is the 'Mermaid's Rock' (Macgregor 1857, 141). 'We wonder if anyone ever heard about the Mermaid

that frequented the Vicinity of the Redhead, at least eighty years ago? This question will no doubt cause smiles. We never believed in such creatures, although we had a rather fixed belief in ghosts fully sixty years ago. A fellow workman of our youth, an old man, who lived for some time on the farm of Caircockhead, used to wander a good deal among the rocks in that locality, and one day he said he saw a very humanlike creature scrambling about among the rocks and sprawling in the water. Thinking it was someone who, by accident, had got hemmed in by the tide, and was trying to escape, he shouted to it, and pointed out an easy way of getting to land. 'Staring at me for a little', he said, 'it, with an eldrich scream, dived into the depths of the ocean and disappeared'. To say it was only a seal put him in towering passion. We remember in a joke asking a friend who had been brought up in the neighbourhood of Ethie Haven if they ever heard of the Mermaid of the Redhead, and got for reply — 'Oh, yes, we have heard old people speaking about some curious creature that had its haunts there' ('Arbroath' 1896).

Mermaid's Rock (Pembrokeshire, Wales):

Location: Saundersfoot, 51° 42' 58.0" N 4° 41' 24.8" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: "This tale goes back over 100 years. A Mermaid was once left high and dry on a large rock off Saundersfoot (a small seaside village near Tenby); and there she sat, with her glass and comb, combing her hair, which was the colour of the sea – of greenish hue – and bewailing her fate, as she had no means of getting to the sea. A poor labouring man, coming down to the beach to gather mussels, caught

sight of her; and him she at once asked to have pity on her, and carry her out to the water. In return, she promised him money, which she knew well where to find. He carried her from the rock, and put her into the sea; and the next day she came back, bringing with her silver and gold, *all of which she had found at the bottom of the sea...* Day by day (he continued) the poor labouring man would come down to the rock, and, taking the Mermaid's gifts, would often repay them by the same service she had at first asked him for. And the man became wonderfully rich; and the people in the neighbourhood gave the rock the name of the Mermaid's Rock, a name which has clung to it ever since' (Blind 1882, 476).

Mermaid's Stone (Berwickshire, Scotland):

Location: Old Cambus, 55° 55' 13.0" N – 2° 19' 14.2" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'Another stone with a corresponding impression [a small female foot] by which people crossed a miry part of a road leading to St Helen's Church, Oldcambus, was regarded as a 'Mermaid's Stone'; she having stepped on it (not being a conventional mermaid with fishy-tail) when escaping from her mortal captor' (Denham 1892-1895, II, 150).

Mermaid's Stone (Cheshire, England):

Location: Leasowe, 53° 25' 10.7" N – 3° 06' 31.0" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: The first reference comes in the mid-nineteenth-century: ‘The gardens attached to the mansion run down to the sea-shore... Here also is a large stone known by the name of the ‘Mermaid’s Stone’ (Burke 1852-1853, II, 126). ‘Along the sea-coast of Cheshire are many quaint, out-of-the-way sights, but none more so than the so-called ‘Mermaid Stones’. They consist of a number of huge, curiously-shaped masses of rock, probably relics of the glacial period, and are situated only a few hundred yards from the picturesque Leasowe Castle, where is a tablet professing to record the origin of the name. From this it appears that in olden times the rocks constituted the favourite haunt of a mermaiden, who was so beautiful that the heart of anyone unfortunate enough to behold her became ignited, and burnt to ashes within his breast’ (Sights 1905). ‘Close by [Canute’s Seat] are three boulder stones, one 6 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. by 3 ft., the others about 7 ft. by 7 ft. by 3 ft. There is a local legend to the effect that these stones were once the favourite haunt of a very fascinating but dangerous mermaiden. To look upon her was certain death, the heart of the observer ‘being burnt to ashes within his breast’. Some twenty years ago there was a board about 4 ft. by 3 ft. fixed to the wall close by, which (as well as I remember) went on to say that when the tide was at flood and the moon at full at midnight, the lady was to be seen here, combing her hair in the manner adopted by her kind. Owing to the more abstemious use of intoxicating liquors mermaids are hardly ever now seen on this coast...’ (Woods 1921, 136). Local inquiries suggest that the stones no longer survive or that they have been integrated into coastal defences. At nearby New Brighton there is a Mermaid Trail set up in the 2010s with a small grant and six statues.



New Brighton (photo credit Edie Denmark)

Mermaid's Well (Forfarshire, Scotland):

Location: Arbroath, 56° 34' 22.5" N – 2° 32' 21.6" W approx.

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: 'Then there is the Mermaid's Well below high-water mark at Carlinheugh [sic] Bay. 150 years ago a young Arbroath poetess Elizabeth Campbell asked in lyric verse: 'O what did we see on the salt beach/ But a fine fresh-water spring?' Interestingly it can still be found, faithfully bubbling up near the mouth of the Dark Cave' (Gibson 1996). The poem (by Campbell) continues, note: 'An elfin well with a witching spell,/ And the joy of a living thing',

but no mention is made of mermaids (Campbell 1875, 98). For another Arbroath name, though a different site, see the Mermaid's Kirk.



II) Inland British Mermaid Placenames

Marmaydes Hole (Essex, England):

Location: Essex 'on the Colne', exact location unknown.

Earliest Reference: 16C

Type: Inland

Notes: Recorded in '5th and 6th Elizabeth', i.e. 1563-4. John Colt the Miller was prosecuted for fishing in the 'Marmaydes Hole' (*Report* 1865, 13). Reaney claims (presumably on the basis of the original document) that this was on the river Colne (1935, 599).

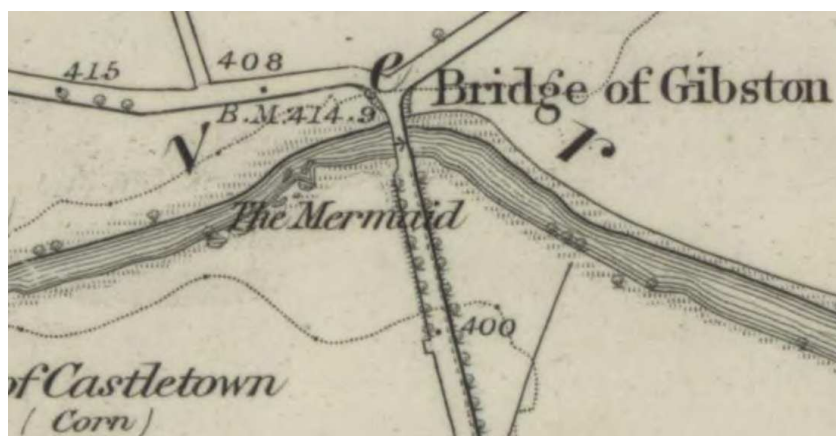
Mermaid, The (Aberdeenshire, Scotland):

Location: Huntly, 57° 27' 18.3" N – 2° 48' 21.1" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: This seems to be a rock formation on the Dever, OSAbe 26 (1874). The name (without any generic) might suggest a mermaid that was turned into a rock or a rock shaped like a mermaid?



Mermaid Pond (Dorset, England):

Location: Chard, 50° 50' 28.9" N – 2° 54' 43.7" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Inland

Notes: The pond is one of pools in the grounds of Forde Abbey. The first written reference I've found is on a map: OSDor 19SW (1904). Linda Roper, present occupant, pers. comm., 15 Jan 2021, wrote that: 'at some stage someone put a small statue of a mermaid in the mermaid pond. These ponds were created by Sir Francis Gwyn in the beginning of the 1700s. I expect the mermaid which was put in the middle of the pond about 1750, but who knows. Sadly, that particular mermaid was stolen but now Leda and her Swan has taken her place!' Linda revealed in a subsequent message that Leda arrived in 1977 soon after the theft.



Mermaid Pool (Berwickshire, Scotland):

Location: Thirlestane, 55° 43' 22.9" N – 2° 40' 07.9" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: The first reference known to me appears on a mid-nineteenth-century map: OSBer 20 (1862) 'Mermaid Pool'. For the first story we must wait almost a century more: 'A short distance further the burn runs through the Mermaid's Wood with the Mermaid's Pool in it, a dark rocky pool overhung by trees according to the legend at one time the haunt of a Mermaid. She used to sit on a stone which rises above the surface of the water and enthrall listeners with her singing. So sweet was her song that the shepherd of the Dods going the round of his flocks used to linger too long listening to her music. One day after having neglected his flocks in this way, his conscience goaded him into a fury with her for being the cause of his inattention to duty. Seizing a stone, he threw it at her, killing the tuneful thing and ending his temptation. 'Twas said her blood ever after bubbled up round the stone. The beautiful fountain, with its delicious water, was erected by Lady John to commemorate the sad fate of the hapless siren' ('The Dod Mill' 1931; this is a newspaper reprint of a magazine publication that I have not been able to track down). Note that here (an alternative name?) or very close is the Mermaid's Well: '...the long line of Khaki clad ladies [a scout expedition] wound its sinuous way up the valley to where, the water rushing darksome under overhanging trees, the Mermaid's Well gushed forth. One and all drank solemnly and wished their wish (though some rash spirits braved unknown punishments by declaring aloud 'last year's wish hadnae yet come true!' On again past the Dod Mill, up the Western Burn valley...' ('With the 3rd' 1912). David Scott wrote a poem entitled 'The Mermaid's Well' (1917), which, in the context of war, seems to recall boyhood scout expeditions there: 'to the bonnie Boon Water... On the green grassy holm by the Mermaid's Well...'.



Mermaid Spinney (Cambridgeshire, England):

Location: Boxworth, 52° 15' 36.4" N – 0° 01' 37.0" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: The only reference I know appears on a map: OSCamb 39NW (1886). There is a small wood with a pond next to it. William Franklin, pers. comm. 7 Jan 2021, writes 'In the 19th century [the Spinney] was known as Mattendine Spinney. The wood is post enclosure as it does not feature on the 17th century map of the village or the enclosure map of 1848. I've looked at the enclosure map and award. The Spinney sits in the east corner of an old enclosure, part of a farmstead in 1848. It was at that time known as Asplins Close. The owner was George Thornhill.' William kindly confirmed that the tythe map-maker did not trouble with bodies of water so we can't see if the pond was there. 'There is an 1853 map of the Thornhill estate. Huntingdon Record office has a photocopy of it. I've not seen it so can't say if that shows ponds etc. The reference number if you need it is TR373/p2.' I have not yet checked this.



Mermaid Stones, The (North Riding, England)

Location: Countersett, 54° 16' 53.7" N – 2° 07' 17.3" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: 'On the shore of the lake [Semmerwater] is a large stone, called the Carlow stone... There are two other stones, visible, but generally covered with water, called the Mermaid Stones; they are worn smooth (Barker 1854, 242). Another slightly later source states: 'there are stones somewhere on the brink of the lake known as the Mermaid Stones, but not one of us knew where to look for them...' (White 1861, 174). Was there a legend associated? 'Take a flying leap into Wensleydale, and how many old folk will you find who can give you the story of the 'Mermaid Stones' or direct you to Robin Hood's Pennistone?' (Blakeborough 1906).

Mermaid Tree, Methven (Perthshire, Scotland):

Location: Methven, 56° 25' 13.4" N – 3° 35' 07.0" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Inland

Notes: ‘Much comment has been caused in Methven with the closing of the Den, a picturesque piece of ground in proximity to the village, and for centuries a place of historic interest as the scene the battle between Bruce and Pembroke in 1306... An ancient tree at the top of the Den has for generations been known as the Mermaid Tree, around which many fairy tales have gathered; while a little without, and overlooking, the Den is the famous Bell Tree – a weird-looking memorial of the ages. Five centuries have passed since it was a sapling’ (The Den’ 1902). It is, I suppose, just possible that the tree is still there. I have found no other reference though.

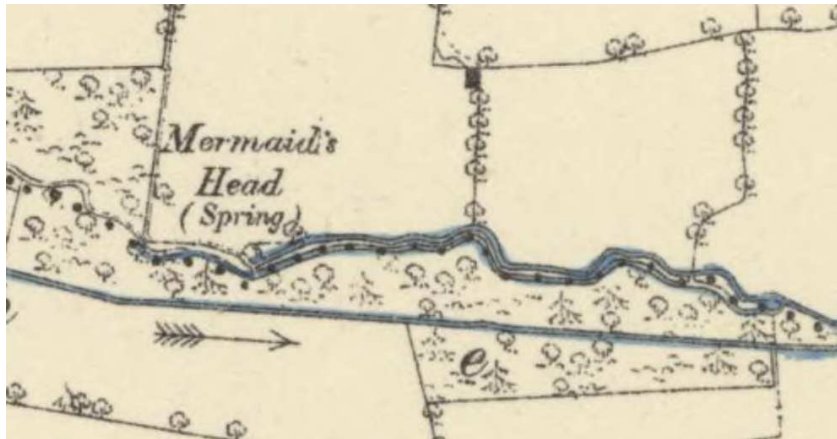
Mermaid’s Head (Norfolk, England):

Location: Aylsham, 52° 46’ 39.1” N – 1° 12’ 59.6” E

Earliest Reference: 19C.

Type: Inland

Notes: This is a spring on OSNor 39NE (1885), south-east of the town: the resulting stream seems to be known as the Mermaid. Benwell and Waugh inquired in the area in the 1960s but evidently got nowhere: ‘Rev. Frank B. Evans, vicar of Aylsham, thinks it more likely that the name derives from one of the water-nymphs with which the rivers and lakes of England once abounded’ (1961, 150). Note the name is ‘Meramid’ on some modern maps.



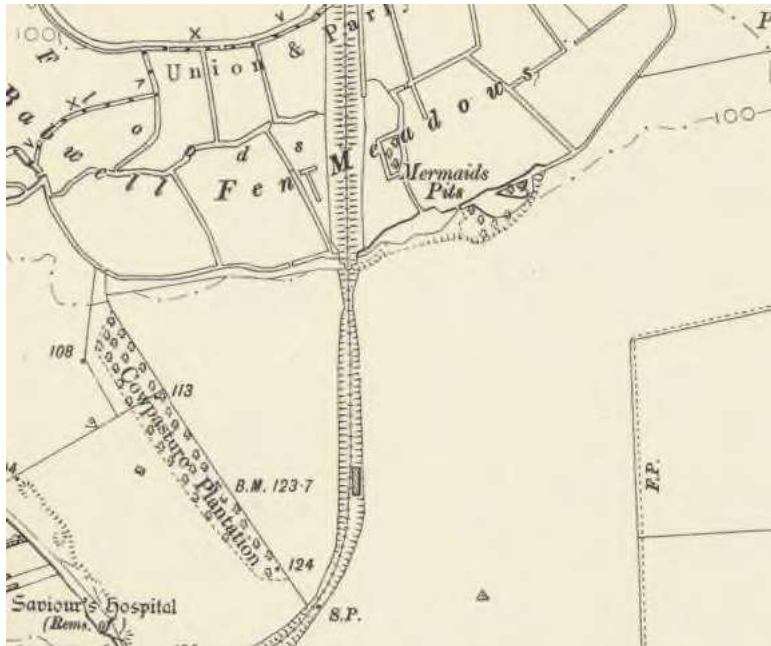
Mermaid's Pits (Suffolk, England):

Location: Bury St Edmunds, 52° 15' 27.5" N 0° 42' 53.4" E

Earliest Reference: 16C

Type: Inland

Notes: There is a sixteenth-century reference: 'a field called Marmayden Pytte' (1540), (Lilian 1909, 320). The same name was used in the nineteenth century: 'water plantain may be found in abundance in this neighbourhood, particularly in the Mermaid's Pits' ('We are informed...' 1821); and 'the Mermaid Pits, where some love-sick maid is said to have perished' (Gage 1838, 255). The Pits seems to have been called, as well, 'Mermaids' spring' in 'Notes' (1890) and 'Mermaid's Pool' (Babington 1884, 162).



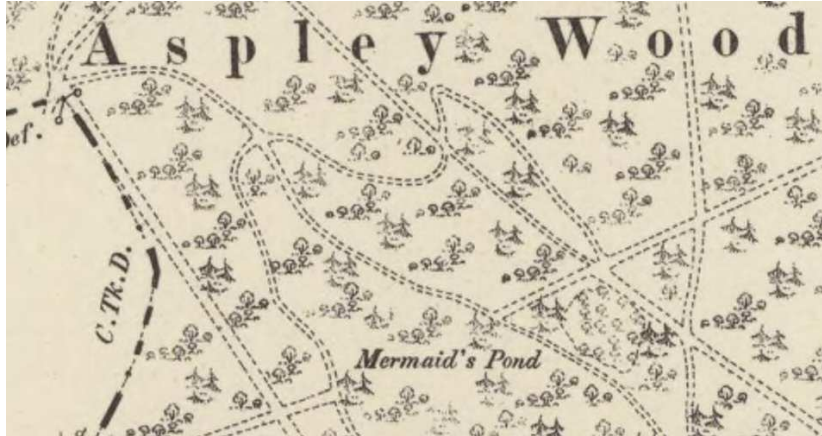
Mermaid's Pond, (Bedfordshire, England):

Location: Aspley Guise, 52° 00' 11.4" N – 0° 38' 02.6" W

Earliest Reference: 18C

Type: Inland

Notes: Mermaid's Pond 'was listed under that name in a Bedford Estate management book in 1791' (*Enjoy and Explore*, nd; see also Saunders 1884, 47). It appears on OS Bed24NE (1884).



Mermaid's Pond (Kent, England):

Location: Thanet, exact location unknown.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland?

Notes: There is a single reference to this pond: '...he had received two estimates for putting fencing round the Mermaid's pond' ('Minster' 1864). Fencing suggests to me a freshwater site in coastal Kent.

Mermaid's Pool (Derbyshire, England):

Location: Hayfield, 53° 23' 41.9" N – 1° 53' 22.3" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: The first reference I know is from a map: OSDer 6 (1840) 'Mermaid Pool'. The form of the name, note, changes: a witch's familiar jumps into 'the Mermaid Pool' ('Hayfield' 1870); 'the Mermaid's Pool or Bath' ('The High

Peak' 1872; Harropdale 1878); 'Mermaid's Pool' OSDer 6SW (1882). There are many versions of the legend. Here is one from the inter-war years: 'There is a tradition current in Hayfield that if one should look deeply into the waters of this solitary tarn at midnight, just as Easter Sunday comes in, mermaid will be seen disporting herself in the rare light of fairyland, and that whoever may catch sight of the playful nymph is assured immortality. One of Hayfield's minor celebrities who died in 1835, at the age of 104, never missed going to the Mermaid's Pool on Easter Eve, in the hope of seeing the Mermaid' ('Town' 1923).



Mermaid's Pool (Staffordshire, England):

Location: Leek, 53° 08' 54.9" N – 1° 56' 30.4" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: The site was also known as the Black Mere: 'the Black Mere of Morridge or the Mermaid Pool' (Jewitt 1879-1880, 176). A useful summary of the legends of the Pool can be found in 'Local' (1936): 'There is no beauty about the dreary scene but there are two extraordinary

beliefs connected with it. In the first of these one perceives a rude attempt of untutored minds to account for the uniform level of the water. They say that the mere is fed by a 'blubb' hole from the sea and, moreover, that the pool is tenanted by a mermaid. On stormy nights... her wailing cry is heard above the moaning of the wind. Her strange form has been seen gliding over the surface of the dark waters, and woe betide any luckless mortal who chances to pass that way after dark. At one time, it was publicly determined by a council of the moorland folk to let off the water and to ascertain once and for all if a mermaid was there or not. Booths were rerected, ale and ginger bread were in everybody's mouth, and for three days the whole scene presented the appearance of a fair. A ditch was cut, but the story runs that, as it was nearing the edge of the pool, when a few more spadefuls of earth would have brought the water rushing forth and sent it leaping down the bare hillside, just when everyone was on the tiptoe of expectation a voice rang out loud and clear: 'Stop. We mun stops. If t'pool is fed by a blubb hole from th's sea, Leek'll be drownt.' Instantly, a panic set in. Black Meer resumed its wonted appearance. The huge ditch they cut, now filled in and overgrown can be seen to this day.' 'Mermaid's Pool at Leek was also supposed to be bottomless' (Hackwood 1923).

Mermaid's Stone (Dumbartonshire, Scotland):

Location: Drumlanrig, 55° 16' 48.2" N – 3° 47' 52.4" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: The Stone appears on a mid-nineteenth-century OS map: OSDum 22 (1856). Claire Oram of the Drumlanrig

estate, pers. comm., 14 Jan 2021, kindly wrote, in answer to an inquiry: 'There doesn't appear on first search, to be any actual written information regarding the Mermaids Stone but I am told that it does indeed exist. It is a rock in the middle of the River Nith, north of the bridge at Drumlanrig. Unfortunately that is everything that I am able to tell you. No-one here seems to know of any traditions just that it is there.'



III) Mermaid Field Names in England and Wales

Mermaid (Dorset, England):

Location: Stockland, 51° 11' 16.6" N – 3° 05' 03.9" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Field-Name

Notes: The name of a field (Mills 1977-2020, IV, 424): to be compared with the various Mermaid Fields (see below). Perhaps it was owned by a Mermaid Pub; or perhaps it was an ironic name for a very wet piece of ground?

Mermaid Field (Carmarthenshire, Wales):

Location: Carmarthen, 51° 51' 27.1" N – 4° 18' 44.2" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Field-Name

Notes: A menagerie was shown 'in the MERMAID FIELD, GOOSE-STREET, CAMARTHEN' ('Hylton's' 1848). An online article gives a digest of an 1844 article: '...an inquest was held on Monday at the Mermaid Inn, Lammas Street...' ⁵ This was hard-by Goose-Street (today St Catherine Street) where the Mermaid Field was to be found. It looks as if the field was named for the pub.

Mermaid Field (Somerset, England):

Location: Wells, 51° 12' 26.5" N – 2° 39' 12.3" W

⁵ <https://stdavidscemeterywales.org/elizabeth-williams-1763-1845-an-aged-woman-who-had-been-left-all-alone/> [accessed 30 Apr 2021]

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Field-Name

Notes: 'A Close of Pasture called Mermaid Field, containing by admeasurement 3a. 3r. 0p, (more or less), in the occupation of H. J. Bernard, Esq., adjoining lands of Thomas Gilling, Esq.... Lots are situate in the City of Wells' ('Wookey' 1844); 'To be sold... at the Mermaid Inn... all that Close of Rich Meadow or Pasture Land called 'Mermaid Field' or 'Townsend', situate at Portway, in the city of Wells, aforesaid, numbered 59 on the Tithe Commutation Map of the In-Parish of St. Cuthbert in Wells, containing by admeasurement, three acres and three roods...' ('Wells' 1851); 'All that close of rich Meadow or Pasture Land called "Townsend or Mermaid Field", situate at Portway... 3A, 3R, 10P' ('Wells' 1861). There was a Mermaid Inn on nearby Tucker Street. There is also a reference to a Mermaid's Corner, which is probably connected to this part of the city: 'the gypsies appeared as usual near the Mermaid Corner and gave their free display of fisticuffs' ('Wells May Fair' 1946, 1).

Mermaid Field (Wiltshire, England):

Location: Christian Malford, 51° 30' 40.2" N – 2° 03' 28.6" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Field-Name

Notes: 'The children assembled in the schoolroom... walked in procession to the mermaid field [small caps], where tea was provided' (Christian Malford 1897); 'A fete organised by the Entertainments Committee was held in the Mermaid Field at Christian Malford' (Christian Malford

1924). I have not been able to identify this field, but a Mermaid Inn (a coaching inn) stood on the north side of the village on the left, with a Mermaid Farm opposite.

Mermaid Ground (Wiltshire, England):

Location: Clyffe Pypard, 51° 30' 10.4" N – 1° 54' 55.7" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Field-Name

Notes: Perhaps the most mysterious mermaid name of all. A house with this name appears on OSWil 21 (1885) to the north-west of the village; 'The Mermaid (Mermaid Ground c. 1840 TA) (?) is locally called Meremaid but there is no tradition or likelihood of an inn here', (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1939, 267). One local, David, wrote, 6-8 Jan 2021, in answer to Facebook inquiries: 'My great Grandparents lived at the Mermaid but don't ask me why it's so called. Their names were Charlie and Charlotte Bint they were there until the 1950s, that's all I know I'm afraid.' I asked David about the 'ground' to the left and he replied 'opposite the houses is a raised area that looks like a building was once there.' Another FB correspondent wrote: 'The only possible local connection I can think of is the Mermaid pub in Christian Malford? (now empty) Approx 8-9 miles away', see further the Mermaid Field (Christian Malford).

Mermaid Orchard (Dorset, England)

Location: Netherbury, 50° 47' 34.0" N – 2° 45' 07.5" W

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Field-Name

Notes: ‘a curious name, allusion uncertain’ (Mills 1977-2020, IV, 330). Alongside the River Brit, near Netherbury church is a plot of land named Mermaid Orchard. John Litton writes, on his Facebook group ‘Holy Wells of Dorset’, 4 Oct 2020: ‘The orchard is long gone and now mature beech and sycamore stand on the steeply sloping ground running down to the river. Like their sea-going cousins, inland mermaids were thought to be perilous water-spirits, and the name here probably once had a folk-tale to go with it; a lesson to the unwary who venture too close to the river’s edge and risk being dragged down to a watery grave by the malevolent spirit.’

A Table of British Mermaid Place-Names

Coastal	39/59
England	34/59
Scotland	16/59
Inland	15/59
Cornwall	10/59
Fields	6/59
Devon	5/59
Wales	7/59
Isle of Man	2/59

Excluded Names

Cavern of Screeches, The (Cornwall, England):

Location: Port Quin, 50° 35' 21.3" N – 4° 52' 05.6" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 19C

Type: Coastal

Notes: Though not strictly speaking a mermaid placename this fictional reference seems worth including here. Nellie Cornwall (aka Enys Tregarthen) wrote the following passages about the Port Quin area. I have never found any other reference to the cave but Nellie Cornwall's methods and the circumstantial details suggest that this place really existed under some name or other: 'I hope the triplets won't wake up whilst Jack is away', remarked Warwick, when the fisher-lad had gone [...] 'If they do and treat us to some of their music, we must put them into the Cavern of Screeches to keep the mer-babies company. What do you say, Sallie?' 'They ent going to wake up,' said Sallie confidently. 'I trust not. But if they do, you know what to expect. The cavern is close under here and is just the place for young howlers, as my old nurse, Mary Kempthorn, was kind to tell me when I did not behave. The Cavern of Screeches is the abiding place of the mer-people, who are fond of whacking their unruly infants with their cat-o'-nine tails, as you will hear by-and-by when the tide comes up' (Cornwall 1897, 63). In the cave the 'children saw there many-hued balls, which every bellowing wave seemed to toss higher, and Sallie Trebiskin, remarked with a shadow of fear on her face, that the mer-mammies were blowing bubbles to keep their babes quiet, 'because', she added, 'they did not want them whipped with the cat-o'-nine tails!' Warwick overheard Sallie's remark, and having finished his

tea, walked over to where she sat with her charges. 'I am afraid the bubble-blowing will not keep the mer-infants quiet much longer,' he said looking down on the young girl's patient face. 'Listen they have begun to howl already.' As he was speaking, there came up from the Cavern of Screeches a weird cry, as if a hundred infants were wailing and sobbing in one voice, and their wail was heard above the roaring of the breakers.' (Ibid., 69).

Land of the Mermaid, The (Sutherland, Scotland)

Location: Sandwood Bay, 58° 32' 24.5" N 5° 03' 24.8" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: Sophia Kingshill and Jennifer Westwood refer to the name 'The Land of the Mermaid' (2012, 365-367) for Sandwood Bay. The name sounds to me like a literary by-name, rather than a commonly-employed one. But further investigation is needed. Certainly, mermaids were seen at Sandwood Bay.

Mermaid Well (Somerset, England):

Location: Timsbury, 51° 19' 41.2" N – 2° 28' 34.7" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Inland

Notes: An informant mentioned this well. But the well seems not to have been so called: I've found no reference

to any name. Quinn (1999, 66, see also 195) writes: ‘At Northfield there was once a field well (ST673594) which children were instructed to avoid, for it was the abode of a mermaid’.

Mermaid’s Well (Suffolk, England):

Location: Fornham St Martin, 52° 16’ 07.2” N – 0° 42’ 55.1” E

Earliest Reference: N/A

Type: Inland

Notes: Several correspondents wrote to me about a Mermaid’s Well at Fornham. This seems to have been a misunderstanding linked to the nearby Mermaid Pits in Bury. At any rate, I have been unable to find any evidence for its existence.

Appendix: West Indian Mermaid Placenames

Mermaid's Chair (US Virgin Islands):

Location: St John, 18° 21' 12.5" N – 64° 46' 37.8" W approx.

Type: Coastal

Notes: Mermaid's Chair is a rock outcrop about thirty yards from a small, isolated beach (Mermaid's Chair Beach or Very Little Hawksnest), on the northern edge of Hawksnest Bay ("The Mermaid's Chair" 2020). Jumbie Bay (another supernatural name) is immediately to the east.

Mermaid's Chair (US Virgin Islands):

Location: St. Thomas, 18° 21' 10" N – 65° 02' 24.2" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: On the western extremity of the island of St Thomas there is a cay. This cay (Cochran, 1937, 3) or the beach connecting the cay to the mainland (Wade, 2016) is known as the Mermaid's Chair. It is a difficult-to reach destination, but one that occasionally appears online in the descriptions of more adventurous tourists (Wade, 2016). The earliest reference I have found to this site dates to 1937 (Cochran, 1937: 3).



Mermaid's Chair on St Thomas (photo by Matt Wade who kindly gave permission to reproduce this image)

Mermaid Hole (Bahamas):

Location: Cat Island, 24°11'05.9" N – 75° 21' 35.9" W

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Inland

Notes: The Mermaid Hole is a large blue hole. A local website includes this passage: 'Young children would fearfully stay away from the water's edge as not to be captured by mermaids. It is believed that the folklore around blue holes was created to protect children from drowning.' www.myoutislands.com/blog/boi-news/explore-folklore-at-this-off-road-blue-hole-in-south-cat-island. The webpage seems to date to Aug 2017 [accessed Jan 2021].

Mermaid Hole (Montserrat):

Location: Montserrat, 16° 42' 24.7" N – 62° 11' 47.2" W, approx.

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Inland

Notes: Mermaid Hole is a cave and the mermaid's lair (Greenaway, 2011: 131). The mermaid is supposed to bathe in a lake at the top of the Chance Peak volcano. The only reference to the toponym in print is from 2011 (Greenaway, 2011: 129): though correspondence with locals shows that the name dates back at least to the Second World War.



The mermaid's caldera on Chance's Peak (Montserrat), photograph by Ben Harris sometime in the 1960s. Thanks to Gracelyn Cassell for permission to reproduce it here.

Mermaid's Hole (Bermuda):

Location: Bermuda, exact location unknown.

Earliest Reference: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: In 1911 a geological report from the island included a reference to a Mermaid's Hole where '[c]oarse recent sand' had been collected (Bullen, 1911: 435). I have not been able to establish where this Hole was to be found, but given the other places in which samples were found it seems to have been a maritime location. Very possibly it was at the Scaur near Somerset Bridge where one report ('Real Estate', 1902) includes details about a 'famous' 'Mermaid's Cave': or do we have a second Bermudan mermaid toponym? There is

another candidate: an old mermaid carving can be found in a cave on John Smith's Beach; I owe Margaret Sweeney for this reference.

Mermaid's Lair Cave (Bahamas):

Location: Grand Bahama, 26° 36' 24.7" N – 78° 27' 35.5" W, approx.

Earliest Ref: 21C

Type: Inland

Notes: According to a local website: 'Mermaid's Lair Cave is an 'inland blue hole' located in an old abandon [sic] settlement known as Old Freetown. To keep kids from playing at the cave, local parents told a story of a Mermaid which pulls little children into the water and into its cave, hence the name. Actually, it is not a blue hole, the term cenote would be more appropriate, but it is simply the entrance to a water filled cave system.' [www.showcaves.com/english/bs/caves/MermaidsLair.htm](http://www.showcaves.com/english/bs/caves/MermaidsLair.html) l. The webpage seems to date to 2020; accessed Jan 2021.

Mermaid Pond (Bahamas):

Location: Grand Bahama, 26° 30' 15.6" N – 78° 44' 36.6" W

Earliest Ref: 20C

Type: Inland

Notes: Mermaid Pond is to be found on the western edge of Freeport, inland but close to the sea. One local website claims that it was named for supernatural happenings that took place there in the 1990s (Stubbs, 2018).

Mermaid Pond (Bahamas):

Location: Rum Cay, 23° 41' 24.4" N – 74° 48' 18.0" W

Earliest Ref: 20C

Type: Inland

Notes: Rum Cay is a thirty-square mile island. It has a tiny population: about fifty people. A 1990 ornithological study reported the existence of a Mermaid Pond in the north-east of the island near Lake George (Buden, 1990: 453). I have been unable to determine whether this is a salt pool or a freshwater pool: it is though, as the name suggests, an inland site.

Mermaid Pond (Bahamas):

Location: San Salvador, 23° 58' 30.5" – N 74° 30' 26.1" W

Earliest Ref: 21C

Type: Inland

Notes: Mermaid Pond is 'an anchialine pond on the south-east corner of the island' (Ditter, Goebel and Erdman, 2015: 1). It is twinned with a second pond named 'Merman Pond'. Mermaid Pond is the southern, and partly isolated extremity of Stout's Lake; Merman's Pond is perhaps two hundred metres to the east (Ditter, Goebel and Erdman, 2015: 2, fig. 1). Correspondence with the authors established that they had coined the two names.

Mermaid Pool (Trinidad and Tobago):

Location: Trinidad, 10°40' 36.6" N – 61° 03' 45.5" W

Earliest Ref: 21C

Type: Inland

Notes: The Mermaid Pool (aka Mermaid Pools, Mermaid's Pool and Matura Basin) are three small connected freshwater pools, which stand about half an hour from the road. Tourist hikes are organised there. The earliest reference I have found to 'Mermaid Pool' is from 2009 and appeared in a 'Trinidadian naturalists' newsletter (Young, 2009).

Mermaid's Pool (Antigua and Barbuda):

Location: Antigua, 16° 59' 55.7" N – 61° 45' 19.3" W

Earliest Ref: 21C

Type: Coastal

Notes: Paul David Mather, in the Facebook Group, 'Exploring Caribbean History' informed me, 12 Feb 2021: 'There's a natural salt water rock pool near English Harbour, Antigua known as Mermaid's Pool. It's along the Carpenters Trail in Nelson's Dockyard National Park, 10-15 minutes' walk from Galleon Beach / Freemans Bay'. Another correspondent claimed that it was called 'Mermaid Garden'.

Mermaid's Pool (Dominica):

Location: Dominica, 15° 22' 27.0" N – 61° 16' 26.5" W

Earliest Ref: 21C

Type: Inland

Notes: The Mermaid's Pool stands on the Rosalie river 'a deep, calm depression... called Mermaid's Pool' (Cerri and McLaren, 2012). The pool is close to a tourist getaway, the Mermaid's Secret founded in 2009. It is unclear whether Mermaid's Pool predated the Mermaid's Secret or was named because of it.

Mermaid's Pool (Bahamas):

Location: New Providence, 25° 02' 54.9" N – 77° 19' 41.2" W

Earliest Ref: 19C

Type: Inland

Notes: The Mermaid's Pool is a two-hundred-foot-deep blue hole in Great Nassau which stands where Robinson Road meets Marathon Road. It is the earliest attested of the West Indies mermaid names. It was described thus in 1880: 'In the south part of the island, about a mile from shore, near an extensive cocoanut plantation, is a natural reservoir of fresh water' (Ives, 1880: 46, quotes a newspaper from 'a year or two since'; for a digest Stark, 1891: 120).

Mermaid Reef (Bahamas):

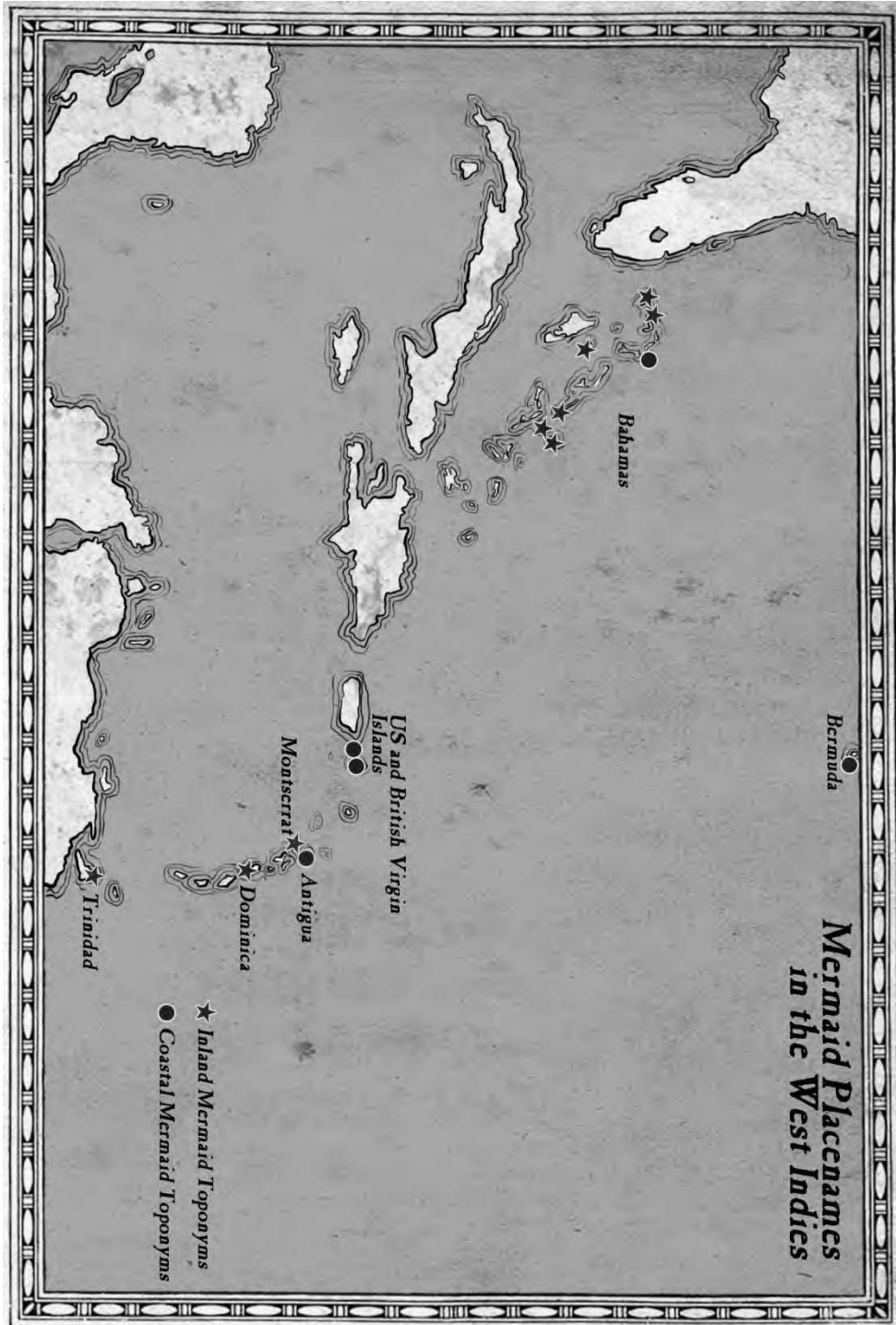
Location: Great Abaco, 26° 33' 13.6" N – 77° 03' 10" W

Earliest Ref: 20C

Type: Coastal

Notes: Mermaid Reef is to be found on the edge of Marsh Harbour and is a favourite with tourists who dive there: it has coral in a part of the sea where this is rare. The oldest reference I have turned up to Mermaid Reef dates to 1997

when the Mermaid Reef Hotel Resort was ‘approved in principle’ by local planning authorities (‘Town Planning’, 1997). There is no explanation as to whether the name predates the resort or whether it had been dreamt up as part of a resort project.



Bibliography

‘10 of the best walks with a swim near London’, *The Guardian* (2 Jun 2015)

‘A correspondent writes...’, *Cornubian and Redruth Times* (18 Sep 1896), 3

‘A Manx Sketch’, *Isle of Man Times* (18 May 1878), 3

‘A Remote Highland Home’, *John o’ Groat Journal* (9 Jun 1891), 3

‘A resident...’, *North Devon Journal* (7 Aug 1947), 4

Adam, John and George Hay, *Aberbrothock Illustrated: Being the Round O Etchings* (Arbroath: T. Buncle, 1886)

‘Ailsa Craig’, *Rothsay Chronicle* (24 Jan 1885), 3

‘Arbroath in the Days of Lang Syne’, *Arbroath Herald* (13 Feb 1896), 2

Babington, Churchill *Catalogue of the birds of Suffolk, with an introduction and remarks on their distribution* (London: J. Van Voorst 1884)

‘Bathing Fatality’, *The Cambrian News* (2 Aug 1895), 8

Benwell, Gwen and Arthur Waugh, *The Sea Enchantress* (London: Hutchinson 1961)

Blakeborough, Richard ‘Tales Our Grandmothers Told’, *Whitby Gazette* (27 Apr 1906), 3

Blind, Karl ‘New Finds in Shetlandic and Welsh Folklore: VIII’, *Gentleman's Magazine* 257 (1882), 469-486

Bottrell, William *Traditions and Hearthside Stories of West Cornwall* (Penzance: W. Cornish/Beare and Son, 1870-1873), 2 vols

Buden, Donald W. 'The Birds of Rum Cay, Bahama Islands', *Wilson Bulletin* 102 (1990), 451-468

Bullen, Rev. R. Ashington 'Some Notes on the Geology of the Bermuda Islands', *The Geological Magazine* 8 (1911), 433-442

Burke, Bernard *A visitation of the seats and arms of the noblemen and gentlemen of Great Britain* (London: Colburn and Co, 1852-1853), 2 vols

Campbell, Elizabeth *Songs of My Pilgrimage* (Edinburgh: Andrew Elliot, 1875)

Cerri, Lara and Ted McLaren 'The Nature of Adventure', *Tampa Bay Times* (21 May 2012), www.tampabay.com/archive/2012/05/20/the-nature-of-adventure/ [accessed Feb 2021]

Cochran, Hamilton *These are the Virgin islands* (New York: Prentice-Hall, inc., 1937)

'Christian Malford Fete', *North Wilts Herald* (13 Jun 1924), 13

'Christian Malford', *Wiltshire Times* (26 Jun 1897), 8

Cornwall, Nellie *The Maid of the Storm* (London: S.W. Partridge, 1897?)

Courtney, Margaret *Cornish Feasts and Folk-lore* (Penzance: Beare and son, 1890)

Craik, Dinah Maria Mulock *His Little Mother and Other Tales and Sketches* (Leipzig: Bernhard Tauchnitz, 1882 [1881])

Daniell, John *A geography of Cornwall* (London, Longmans and co.; [etc., etc.] 1854)

Denham, Michael *The Denham tracts: a collection of folklore : reprinted from the original tracts and pamphlets printed by Mr. Denham between 1846 and 1859* (London: Folklore Society, 1892-1895), 2 vols

Dennison, Walter Traill *Orkney Folklore and Sea Legends: Studies of traditional life and folklore by Walter Traill Dennison* (Kirkwall: Orkney Press, 1995)

Ditter, Rob E. and Anna M. Goebel, and Robert B. Erdman, 'First Record of the anchialine shrimp *Parhippolyte sterreri* (Decapoda, Barbouriidae) from San Salvador Island, Bahamas, with observations on *Barbouria cubensis*', *Marine Biodiversity Records* 8 (2015), 1-4

Enjoy and Explore Aspley Guise (Aspley Guise Parish Council) [undated leaflet, 2010s?]

Fisher, Stuart *Coastal Britain: England and Wales* (London: Adlard Coles, 2019)

'Fishing in New Zealand', *Field* (25 Nov 1871,) 13

Fortey, Richard *The Hidden Landscape: A Journey into the Geological Past* (London: Bodley Head, 2010)

Gage, John *The History and Antiquities of Suffolk: Thingoe Hundred* (London: Bentley 1838)

Gibson, Colin 'Nature Diary', *Dundee Courier* (24 Aug 1996), 10

Gorrie, Daniel *Summers and winters in the Orkneys* (London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1868)

Gover, J. E. B. Allen Mawer and F. M. Stenton *The Place-Names of Wiltshire* (Cambridge: CUP 1939)

Greenaway, Sharmen *Montserrat in England: Dynamics of Culture* (Bloomington: iUniverse 2011)

Hackwood, Fredk. W. 'Staffordshire Customs: XXXV Holy Wells', *Lichfield Mercury* (9 Nov 1923), 6

Harfager, H. 'A Whale-Chase in Orkney', *Orkney Herald* (24 Jul 1866), 4

Harropdale, 'The Spirit of Kinder Scout', *Hyde and Glossop Weekly News* (30 Mar 1878), 3

Hayfield', *Glossop-dale Chronicle* (19 Feb 1870), 3

Hiscock, Keith 'Marine Biological Monitoring at Lundy', *Reports of the Lundy Field Society* 36 (1987), 27-34

Hitchins, Fortescue and Samuel Drew *The History of Cornwall* (Helston: Penaluna, 1824), 3 vols

Hunt, Robert *Popular romances of the west of England, or, The drolls, traditions, and superstitions of old Cornwall* (London: John Camden, 1865)

'Hylton's Immense Splendid National Menagerie', *The Welshman* (14 Apr 1848), 3

'In Praise of Newquay', *Royal Cornwall Gazette* (15 Sep 1892)

Ives, Charles *The Isles of summer; or, Nassau and the Bahamas* (New Haven, Conn: NP, 1880)

Jewitt, Llewellynn 'The Mermaid and the Symbolism of the Fish in Art, Literature, and Legendary Lore', *The Reliquary* 20 (1879-1880), 9-16, 97-103, 172-176

Kingshill, Sophia and Jennifer Westwood, *The Fabled Coast: Legends and Traditions from Around the Shores of Britain and Ireland* (London: RH Books, 2012)

Lach-Szyrma, W. S, *Rodda's guide to Penzance, Land's end, Kynance cove, The lizard, Isles of Scilly, &c.* (Penzance, F. Rodda, 1894)

'Local Cycling Notes and News', *Staffordshire Sentinels* (6 Nov 1936), 13

Low, James G. 'Montrose Coat of Arms', *Montrose Standard* (21 Apr 1939), 5

Lyonesse, *Legend land: being a collection of some of the old tales told in those Western parts of Britain served by the Great Western Railway* (London: GWR, 1922-1923), 4 vols

Macgregor, Michael *The Pocket Commercial Gazetteer of Scotland* (Edinburgh: James Taylor, 1857)

Mills, A. D. *The Place-Names of Dorset* (1977-2020), 5 vols

Mine's quite cold...', *Daily Mail* (16 Sep 2019) [<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7469089/Skinny-dippers-enjoy-naked-bathing-Cornwalls-historic-mining-pools.html>]

'Minster: Isle of Thanet Highway Board', *Thanet Advertiser* (9 Jul 1864), 3

'Montrose Coat of Arms', *Montrose Standard* (21 Apr 1939), 5

- ‘Mr Taylor...’ *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* (10 Jan 1908), 12
- ‘Narrow Escape!!!’, *The Tenby Observer Weekly* (9 Mar 1871), 4
- ‘Notes on Natural History and Fish’, *Bury Free Press* (17 May 1890), 2
- ‘Opening of the Season’, *Isle of Man Times* (16 May 1891), 5
- ‘Presidential Address’, *Montrose, Arbroath and Brechin review; and Forfar and Kincardineshire advertiser* (24 Jul 1891), 6
- Quinn, Phil *Holy Wells of Bath and Bristol Region* (Eardisley: Logaston, 1999)
- ‘Real Estate’, *Royal Gazette* (15 Feb 1902), 3
- Reaney, P. H. *The Place-Names of Essex* (Cambridge: CUP, 1935)
- Report on the records of the borough of Colchester* (Colchester: Gazette Office 1865)
- Saxby, Jessie M.E. *Shetland Traditional Lore* (Edinburgh: Grant and Murray, 1932)
- Saunders, James ‘South Bedfordshire Mosses’, *Journal of Botany* 22 (London 1884), 46-49
- Scott, David ‘The Mermaid’s Well’, *Dalkeith Advertiser* (28 Jun 1917), 2
- ‘Sights for Holiday-Makers’, *Manchester Courier* (29 Jul 1905), 14
- ‘Skinny-dipping in Cornwall’s historic miners’ pools’, *Cornwall Live* (6 Sep 2020)

‘Smugglers’ Cave’, *North Devon Journal* (21 Aug 1947), 4

Stark, James *Stark’s History and Guide to the Bahama Islands* (Boston: Stark, 1891)

Stubbs, Garbriel [sic] ‘Untold Secrets of the Mermaid Pond and The Owl’s Hole’ (13 Nov 2018), www.culturalmemorybahamas.com/untold-secrets-of-the-mermaid-pond-and-the-owls-hole/ [accessed 9 Feb 2021]

Summary of progress of the Geological Survey of Great Britain for 1915 (London: Stationary Office, 1915)

‘Take a walk in these wonderful woods’, *Dunstable Today* (27 Jun 2012), www.dunstabletoday.co.uk/lifestyle/take-walk-these-wonderful-woods-2374130

‘The Den at Methven’, *Dundee Evening Telegraph* (18 Aug 1902), 2

‘The Dod Mill’, *Hawick Express* (9 Jul 1931), 5

‘The Farm of West Seaton’, *The Scotsman* (20 Nov 1886), 3

The Geology of Eastern Fife (Glasgow: Stationary Office, 1902)

‘The High Peak of Derbyshire’, *Derbyshire Times* (3 Aug 1872), 6

‘The Mermaid’s Chair, Hawknest Bay? Worth a stop?’ <https://www.traveltalkonline.com/ubbthreads.php/ubb/printthread/Board/8/main/31801/type/thread.html> (2020) [accessed 16 May 2021]

‘The Mermaid Stone’, *Liverpool Daily Post* (10 Nov 1944), 3

‘The Sentinel of the Firth of Clyde’, *Dundee Courier* (21 Apr 1904), 4

‘Town and County Gossip’, *Derby Daily Telegraph* (6 Sep 1923), 2

Wade, Matt ‘Getting to Mermaid’s Chair on St Thomas’ (23 Apr 2016) www.thatmattwade.medium.com/getting-to-mermaids-chair-on-st-thomas-8e95b09b5b05 [accessed Feb 2021]

Ward, C. S. *North Devon and North Cornwall from Exmoor to the Scilly Isles: with a description of the various approaches* (London: Dulau, 1888)

‘We are informed...’ *Bury and Norwich Post* (7 Mar 1821), 2

‘Wells May Fair’, *Wells Journal* (10 May 1946), 1

‘Wells, Somerset’, *Wells Journal* (27 Sep 1851), 1

‘Wells, Somerset’, *Wells Journal* (5 Oct 1861), 2

‘With the 3rd Midlothian in Camp’, *Mid-Lothian Journal* (8 Nov 1912), 3

Woods, E. Cuthbert ‘Leasowe Castle: Its Owners and History’, *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* 73 (1921), 127-148

Wookey, Easton and Wells, Somerset’, *Taunton Courier* (20 Nov 1844), 2

Young, John Lum ‘Mermaid Pool’, *The Field Naturalist: Quarterly Bulletin of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists’ Club* (2009), 7

Young, Simon 'Her Room Was Her World: Nellie Sloggett and North Cornish Folklore', *Journal of Ethnology and Folkloristics* 11 (2017), 101-136

Pwca Ghost, Witch and Fairy Pamphlets

- 1) John Higson, *South Manchester Supernatural: The Ghosts, Fairies, Boggarts and Superstitions of Victorian Gorton, Lees, Newton and Saddleworth* (2020)
- 2) Mrs. J. H. Riddell, John Owen, Jessie Adelaide Middleton, Mrs Goodhall, Miss X and George Hurst, *Ghost Tales of Victorian and Edwardian Bedfordshire* (2020)
- 3) Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, *Sheridan Le Fanu's Scary Fairy Stories* (2020)
- 4) *Cornish Mermaid Tales* (2020)
- 5) George Hurst, *The Victorian Ghosts, Devils and Witches of Northern Bedfordshire: Including the legends of Bletsoe, Clapham, Millbrook, Milton Ernest, Oakley, Odell and Marston Morteyn* (2020)
- 6) *The Cunning Folk, Healers, Witches and Fairy Seers of Victorian Liverpool* (2020)
- 7) S. R. Young *A Gazetteer of British Mermaid Place-names: England, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man: With an Appendix on the Mermaid Place-names of the West Indies*

The Wicked Lady Ferrers: A Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Highway-Woman and Ghost
(Forthcoming)

Fairy Battles and Fairy Hostings from Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales (Forthcoming)

Pixy-Led: Tales and Experiences About Being Misled by Fairies (Forthcoming)

The Banshee in Ireland (Forthcoming)

The Banshee Abroad (Forthcoming)

Fairy Funerals (Forthcoming)

Weighing Witches (Forthcoming)

For publication lists or significant discounts
on multiple orders:

simonryoung@cantab.net

